

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6830
BILL NUMBER: SB 271

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 27, 2014
BILL AMENDED: Jan 27, 2014

SUBJECT: Water Related Study Committee Responsibilities.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Charbonneau
FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Koch

BILL STATUS: As Passed House

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill urges the Legislative Council to assign to the appropriate committee for the 2014 legislative interim the responsibility: (1) to receive testimony about a number of subjects related to water resources, including certain recommendations of the Utility Regulatory Commission, the effect of water resource availability on state and regional economic development decisions, coordination of state government activities relating to water resources, and key elements that a state water plan should contain; and (2) to study the potential creation of a water institute and a water management authority.

Effective Date: April 1, 2014.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) *Summary* - This bill urges the Legislative Council to assign several responsibilities to an appropriate committee for the 2014 interim. If a committee designated by the Legislative Council were to hold additional meetings to address the responsibilities within the bill, there would be additional expenditures for legislator per diem and travel reimbursement for the committee members. Any additional expenditures must be within the committee's budget, which is established by the Legislative Council.

Interim study committees operate on budgets established by the Legislative Council based on committee size. Legislative Council resolutions in the past have established budgets for interim study committees in the amount of \$9,500 per interim for committees with fewer than 16 members and \$16,500 for committees with 16 members or more.

(Revised) *Additional Information* - The bill urges the Legislative Council to assign the following

responsibilities to an appropriate committee for the 2014 interim:

- (1) Receive testimony and information from the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) concerning the most recent Water Utility Resource Report to the Legislative Council.
- (2) Receive testimony on the effect that the relative availability of water resources has upon state and regional economic development decisions.
- (3) Receive testimony concerning ways in which state government agencies could better coordinate their activities relating to the management of water resources.
- (4) Receive testimony concerning ways in which state and local governments can better coordinate their activities relating to the management of water resources.
- (5) Receive testimony concerning the unique water resource challenges facing rural Indiana and, in particular, the agricultural community, including aquifer withdrawals, surface water concerns, and inter-basin transfers.
- (6) Receive testimony that evaluates:
 - (A) the recommendations set forth by the IURC in its most Water Utility Resource Report; and
 - (B) other recommendations concerning Indiana's water resources.
- (7) Receive testimony on the key elements that a state water plan should contain.
- (8) Study the potential creation of a water institute.
- (9) Study the potential creation of a water management authority.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Legislative Council.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources:

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